

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Rumania

REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troops and Soviet and Rumanian Military Installations in andaround Arad

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 29 January 1953

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

25X1

1. Prior to mid-November 1951, the two former Koenigsdorfer villas in Arad (R 16/U 16) quartered Soviet headquarters referred to as komendaturas by the population. The two adjacent villas were located on the east side of the Arad Timisoara (R 16/T 91) highway, about 200 meters north of the bridge on which the highway crossed the Mures River, and west of a shoe and textile factory. The southern villa was the main headquarters building, which housed offices and a guardroom. The northern villa housed offices and the apartment of a Soviet general who wore tank insignia on his epaulets. He was referred to as the town major. mostly Soviet tank officers and uniformed women. The two buildings were estimated to quarter a total of 30 to 40 individuals. The headquarters had no duties concerning the Rumanian civil population. ¹ 25X1

2. Prior to the fall of 1951, only Soviet troops were located in the former Artillery Barracks on the west side of Calea Victoriei. In late summer 1951, 400 to 500 Soviet troops marched through Aradul Nou toward the barracks installation. the troops were a battalion of the regiment stationed at Aradul Nou. The unit had about 20 trucks and horse-drawn box-shaped vehicles and carts. The troops were equipped with rifles, submachine guns and Maxim heavy machine guns. According to residents, the battalion moved to the former Artillery Barracks from the former Cavalry Barracks near the Aradul Nou railroad station. Prior to the summer of 1951, a barrack-like compound directly southwest of the barracks installation housed Rumanian labor personnel. It was guarded by militia. ² 25X1

3. Prior to 1951, sergeants and junior lieutenants of the Soviet tank troops located in the citadel and their dependents lived in a settlement of two-family houses, 400 to 500 meters southeast of the citadel, near a wooded hill topped with a monument. A large number of the soldiers spoke a little German. they had moved, in 1949, with their tanks from Austria to Arad. ³ 25X1

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4. Prior to mid-1951, single-story workshops, garages and ordnance buildings were constructed in the rear section of the old former Cavalry Barracks, east of the Aradul Nou railroad station. The buildings quartered Soviet troops generally estimated by the population at regimental size and equipped with infantry weapons including Maxim heavy machine guns and mortars, 3-ton ZIS trucks and horse-drawn vehicles. ⁴ Motorcycle messengers frequently communicated between the barracks installation, the fortress and the headquarters in the former Koenigsdorfer villas. The troops located in the former Cavalry Barracks were trained in a training area near Sarnicolaul Mic (R 16/U 15).

5. Prior to the fall of 1951, the central hotel on the west side of Bulv. Republicii and about 100 meters south of the main office of the Rumanian Militia housed the Soviet officers' mess. The southern section of the hotel was released to the Rumanians and used for educational purposes. Prior to November 1951, a Soviet residential area, which was off limits and also quartered Soviet officers' dependents, was southeast of the officers' mess between Bulv. Republicii and former Bulv. Carol. ⁵

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6. Prior to November 1951, a Soviet training area was on both sides of the Aradul-Nou Periam (R 16/T 64) road. It was bounded by the Mures River in the north, the Arad Timisoara railroad line in the east, approximately the Vinga (R 16/T 49) Colonia Mica (R 16/T 48) Periam railroad line in the south, and the town proper of Periam in the west. A depot consisting of low buildings and excavated bunkers and quartering a Soviet unit was south of the town of Zadarlac (R 16/U 05). The installation, which was also referred to as the forest depot, was enclosed by a barbed wire fence. According to residents of Zadarlac, the forest depot served to store tents, targets, ammunition and other practice materials. The units holding record firing practices in the training area picked up ammunition at the depot. A strip of terrain west of the forest depot and south of the Zadarlac Felnac (R 16/T 95) Secusigiu (R 16/T 84) road was used for record firing practices. The terrain was closed by wooden barriers and warning boards were set up along the road. A tank range also was farther to the south, toward the center of the area. The training area in the area southwest of Aradul Nou was almost exclusively used by the Soviet troops stationed at Arad, which practiced there, prior to November 1951, almost daily. The area was crossed by the Aradul-Nou Periam road, which was frequently closed to traffic. Once a year, in September and October, the area was off limits for a period of about four weeks because of fall maneuvers which also included Soviet Air Force units. The largest Soviet maneuvers held in this area took place in the fall of 1950. Practices held later were confined to a smaller level. All maneuvers were published in the local press and posted on the bulletin board in the mayors' office. The practices also involved Rumanian militia from Arad, who did guard duty. ⁵

7. Another training area rear the post and used by Soviet troops was west of the town and directly around the sewerage plant. The firing ranges, which were exclusively used by Soviet infantry and tank units, also were west of the town and directly south of the cemetery.

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8. Prior to October 1951, a Rumanian border guard unit of about 200 men occupied a barracks installation of the Rumanian border guard troops, which was in the open terrain on the west side of the Arad Cimandul-Nou (R 16/T 17) road, approximately halfway between the two towns. [redacted] the unit located in the installation was subordinate to a headquarters billeted in houses in the town of Cimandul Nou. 25X1
9. In late 1951, a road bridge over the Mures River was under construction in the port area of Periam Port (R 16/T 75), which was off limits and enclosed by barbed wire. The steel frame of the bridge, whose concrete pillars were set up by late 1951, was being constructed from both banks. [redacted] the bridge was constructed by Soviet engineer soldiers and a Soviet labor battalion. Soviet soldiers were occasionally observed by source in Periam and were subordinate to a higher headquarters in Timisoara. 6 25X1
10. An office of the Rumanian Armed Forces, whose staff included civilians, was in the northern section of Strada Marasesti in Arad. [redacted] the office was headed by an old Rumanian general. The office dealt with general matters of the post and recruiting and replacement questions. It registered inductees and sent them to the former Constabulary Barracks. 7 25X1
11. The destroyed former Cavalry Barracks on the north side of Calea Aurel Vlaicu had not been reconditioned by the fall of 1951. The rear area of the installation included low buildings which were under construction.
12. Prior to late November 1951 [redacted] an office of the Rumanian Armed Forces in a corner building on a street intersecting Strada Marasesti in Arad. The building was frequently visited by Rumanian officers, who arrived by car, and had entrances constantly guarded by Rumanian sentries carrying submachine guns. 7 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] a Soviet general in the citadel occupied by a Soviet tank unit. 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment. Several previous reports stated that the former Artillery Barracks and the former Cavalry Barracks were occupied by Soviet units. [redacted] The unit has not been identified. [redacted] the Rumanian labor unit in the Artillery Barracks. The statements on the location of the Labor Service Barracks next to the Artillery Barracks are considered credible. 25X1
3. [redacted] Comment. The present report substantiates the statements of a previous report on the occupation of the citadel by a Soviet tank unit. [redacted] After 1945, transfers of units from Austria were no longer observed. However, the 24th Tank Div may be stationed in the Arad area. The division showed up in Austria in early 1946, in Rumania from May to December 1946, and again in Austria-Hungary in the spring of 1947. It was no longer observed after 1947. 25X1

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4. Comment. [redacted] guns and
armored vehicles were also observed in this installation prior to December
1951. [redacted] 25X1
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5. Comment. It is fairly definitely believed that only a guard unit is
stationed at the forest depot. 25X1
6. Comment. The report on the construction of a bridge near Periam
Port by Soviet engineer soldiers substantiates the statements of a previous
report. No Soviet troops are allegedly stationed at the town of Periam.
[redacted] 25X1
Comment. 25X1
7. The present report on the Romanian recruiting office substantiates the
statements of a previous report. [redacted] 25X1

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